



## Commonwealth health ministers' update 2009, Chapter 2: The health risks of climate change

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<b>Author(s):</b>	Ebi KL, Nyong A
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### Abstract:

Climate change has the potential to affect any health outcome that is seasonal or that is associated with weather and climate. Climate-sensitive health outcomes include injuries, illnesses and deaths directly associated with extreme weather events and illnesses and deaths associated with water- and food-borne diseases, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, malnutrition, and poor air quality. Climate change also may result in resource depletion and other processes that could lead to large-scale migration, with associated negative health outcomes. While negative health effects are projected for all countries, the largest impacts are expected in lower-income populations living predominantly within tropical/subtropical countries.<sup>1</sup> For instance, loss of healthy life years as a result of global environmental change (including climate change) is predicted to be 500 times greater amongst poor African populations than amongst European populations.<sup>2</sup> It has been estimated that 182 million people in sub-Saharan Africa could die of disease directly attributable to climate change by the end of the 21st century. Millions more could become climate change refugees.

**Source:** <http://archives.enap.ca/bibliotheques/2009/09/30110842.pdf>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Quality, Human Conflict/Displacement

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Tropical, Other Geographical Feature

**Other Geographical Feature :** Subtropical

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified



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## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content